Less power supply in rural households

*198. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural households in the country, having power connections, have to do without electricity for 13 to 17 hours a day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the position is likely to improve?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the respective State Governments who make arrangements for supply of power to various categories of consumers in rural as well as urban areas in the State. Load shedding and power cuts are resorted to be the respective State depending on demand of power and its availability and their priorities for distribution. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by way of addition to generation capacity and establishment of bulk high voltage transmission system in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertaking. Generally, supply to rural households is through agricultural feeders and is of the same duration as that to agriculture sector. In accordance the information available from various State power utilities, power supply to agriculture sector varied from 6 to 24 hours in States during February, 2007. The details of power supply to agriculture sector during February, 2007 are annexed as Statement. (*See* below)

(b) There is overall shortage of power in the country. The shortages vary from State to State and season to season, as well as times of day depending on the demand and supply of power. The main reasons for shortage of power are as under:

(i) Demand for power in the States outstripping the growth in their generation and capacity addition.

(ii) Low Plant Load Factor of some of the thermal generating units, mostly in the State Sector.

(iii) Inadequate availability of gas.

(iv) High Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses including theft of electricity.

(v) Poor financial position of State utilities making it difficult for them to raise the resources necessary for making required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system.

(c) The National Electricity Policy envisages "Power for all by 2012" and per capita available of power to be increased to over 1,000 units by 2011-12. To achieve this, the Central Electricity Authority has projected that a total capacity addition of about 1,00,000 MW is required during 10th and Eleventh Plan periods. Keeping in view the capacity of 23,250 MW which is likely to be added during Tenth Plan, 76,460 MW comprising 39,109 MW in Central Sector, 26,602 MW in State Sector and 10,749 MW in Private Sector is required to be added during the Eleventh Plan. To ensure the proposed capacity addition during Eleventh Plan, the following strategies have been adopted:

(i) The selection of projects for inclusion in the Eleventh Plan is based on criteria of each project meeting certain milestone. Projects aggregating 44,358 MW (58% of the proposed capacity) are already under construction.

(ii) Coal linkages in respect of 84% of the coal-based capacity is already available.

(iii) Total proposed nuclear capacity of 3,160 MW is already under construction.

(iv) Gas-based projects of 4,242 MW capacity considered for execution in 11th Plan have gas supply tied up.

(v) Nine Ultra mega power projects of 4000 MW each capacity are planned, their benefits will come in the 12th Plan.

(vi) Efforts are on to promote tapping of surplus power from captive power plants and also setting up of merchant power plants for augmenting the availability of power.

Statement

Details of power supply to agriculture sector

State/Region	Average hours of Supply
Northern Region	
Chandigarh	24 hrs/day
Delhi	24 hrs/day
Haryana	6 hrs/day
Himachal Pradesh	24 hrs/day
Jammu & Kashmir	-
Punjab	about 23 hrs/day
Rajasthan	11 hrs/day
Uttar Pradesh	14 hrs/day
Uttaranchal	24 hrs/day
Western Region	
Chhattisgarh	Three Phase Supply : 21 hrs 23 min/day
Gujarat	Three Phase Supply : average 08 hrs 8/day Single Phase Supply : average 15hrs 30 min/day
Madhya Pradesh	Three Phase Supply : 8 hrs/day Single phase Supply : 03 hrs/day
Maharashtra	Three Phase Supply : average 10 to 11 hrs/day Single Phase Supply : average 20 hrs/day
Goa	No restriction
Southern Region	
Andhra Pradesh	Three Phase Supply : 7 hrs/day Single Phase Supply : No supply
Karnataka	Three Phase/Single Phase Supply : 08 hrs 30 mins/day
Kerala	No Restrictions
Tamil Nadu	Three Phase Supply : 14 hrs/day Single Phase Supply: 10 hrs/day
Pondicherry	No Restrictions
Eastern Region	
Bihar	18 hrs
Jharkhand	About 20 hrs
Orissa	24 hrs (It is being supplied by distribution company)
West Bengal	About 23 hrs